

REMARKS

Pursuant to the present amendment, claims 1 and 12 have been amended, claims 10, 11 and 13 have been canceled and new claims 24-26 have been added. Thus, claims 1, 4-9, 12, 14 and 16-26 are pending in the present application. No new matter has been introduced by way of the present amendment. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and arguments set forth herein.

In the Final Office Action, claims 14 and 16-23 were allowed. Claims 10 and 12 were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Final Office Action, p. 4.

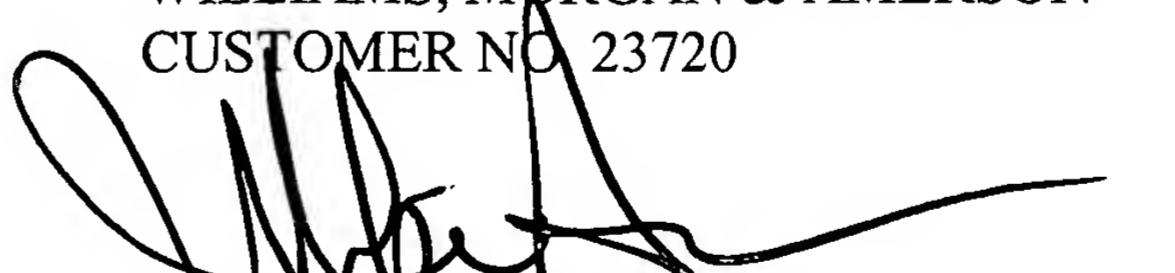
Pursuant to the present amendment, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of now-canceled dependent claim 10. Thus, it is believed that claims 1, 4-9 and 12 are in condition for immediate allowance.

Pursuant to the present amendment, new independent claim 24 has been added to present dependent claim 12 in independent form. Thus, it is believed that new claims 24-26 are allowable.

It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for immediate allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (713) 934-4055 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Respectfully submitted,

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